

## Producing the Field of Experimental Film/Video

Working from the premises of Bourdieu's concept of "the field of cultural production," this essay describes (U.S.) avant garde media in a structural and dynamic model. Critiquing the dominant orthodoxy (roughly, Sitney's Visionary Film), key concepts of history, periodization, generation, canon, and critical method are examined from a sociological and institutional perspective validating variety, deviance, and dissent. Contrary to the model of an internal aesthetic development, the generation of new forms and styles is strongly linked to expressive needs and desires of new social forces. The essay concludes with a consideration of previous revisionist analyses and histories (e.g. Tyler, James, Rabinovitz) and contemporary ones (e.g., Hawkins, Marks, Russell).

Respondants (in order of preference)

Tom Gunning, Fred Camper, Jonathan Rosenbaum, James Kruel (Madison), Joan Hawkins (Indiana--Bloomington).

Also possible: Pat Friel (Chicago Filmmakers), Vanalyne Green (SAIC), Jeffrey Skoller (SAIC).